

- Evans Bike Path construction started; completion expected in 2011
- Legislature to be downsized to 11 members
- Law created to help patients with Alzheimer's

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News from Legislator Dixon

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Downsizing Referendum approved

Winter Clothing Drive helps neighbors in need!

An overwhelming number of voters (83%!) favor a smaller County Government. On Election Day, Nov. 2, 2010, the message was loud and clear - residents in Erie County want the Legislature reduced to 11 members from its current 15.

Legislator Lynne Dixon is proud to have supported this initiative since she began serving as a Legislator in January. She fought on behalf of the residents to get the item on the ballot. The response proves that "business as usual" will no longer be accepted by voters.

Legislator Dixon will continue to bring real change to Erie County.



Legislator Lynne Dixon collected winter clothing to help Southtown families stay warm. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped a neighbor in need!

Omphalius Road repairs complete

Omphalius Road in the Town of Boston has been a matter of concern for many years but Legislator Dixon is happy to report those issues have been addressed. Work on the roadway was completed in November.

"I know that residents who live on that roadway and use it

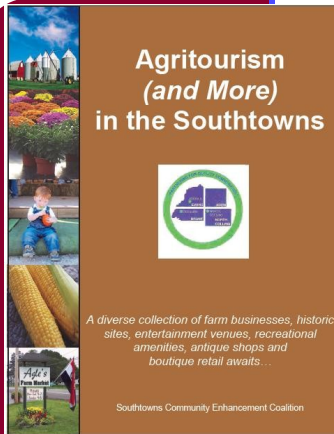
every day have been asking for the much-needed repairs and I am happy to report the necessary work is done," Legislator Dixon said. "These repairs have been needed for several years and I am glad this project was moved forward at this time."

Omphalius Road was repaired from Boston State Road

and up the hill about 3,000 feet. Drainage pipe was installed to alleviate the excessive water that pools at the intersection of Omphalius and Boston State roads during heavy rains.

The project also eliminated bumps that were causing havoc for motorists.

Agritourism Brochure Unveiled



For a copy of the brochure, visit one of the 42 attractions featured or Town and Village Halls.

Erie County Legislator Lynne Dixon and the Southtowns Community Enhancement Coalition announced that a new tourism guide is available to visitors in an effort to promote 42 Agritourism attractions in Angola, Evans, Eden, Farnham, Brant, North Collins and the Village of North Collins.

The brochure "Agritourism (and More) in the Southtowns," was unveiled during a Fall Agritourism Reception held Oct. 27, 2010 at Awald Farms in North Collins. The

reception was well attended by "Agritourism Supporters" and celebrated the release of the brochure. Part of a rapidly growing national trend, the guide promotes Agritourism, which is an effort to promote agriculturally-based operations or activities that bring visitors to farms or similar establishments.

"I am excited to announce the unveiling of this guide. It is extremely informative and highlights many tourist spots that visitors might not have thought to visit," said Legisla-

tor Dixon, who represents each of the towns and villages featured in the brochure. "There are so many great places to visit in this area and promoting them together in an Agritourism guide is a terrific idea. I commend the volunteers and businesses that put this brochure together."

The guide boasts, "A diverse collection of farm businesses, historic sites, entertainment venues, recreational amenities, antique shops and boutique retail."

Cosponsoring the Silver Alert Law

"I am pleased to do all I can to help keep those with Alzheimer's and dementia illnesses safe."

The creation of a new local law, entitled, "Erie County Silver Alert System" was unanimously approved by the Erie County Legislature during its Nov. 4, 2010 session. Legislator Dixon co-sponsored the law which creates a plan to expedite search efforts for missing Alzheimer's patients or individuals with other dementia related illnesses.

The approval of the Erie County Silver Alert System is extremely important to the region which has a high rate of residents with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

"I know firsthand the challenges of caring for someone with Alzheimer's. We try to keep them in familiar surroundings as long as possible, but with that comes the

added concern that our loved ones will wander, and this community knows the tragedy that can result. I am pleased to do all I can to help keep those with Alzheimer's and dementia illnesses safe, and give their loved ones some peace of mind," Legislator Dixon said.

The final step is developing guidelines and a set of procedures for issuing a Silver Alert, which will be drafted by the Erie County Sheriff's Department in cooperation with the WNY Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Erie County has an estimated 32,000 residents with dementia, and at some point 60 percent (or more than 19,000 people) will wander from their homes or become lost. Silver Alert will require that each police municipality have a system of communication to identify and locate those with cognitive impairments.

Silver Alert programs are enacted across the United States but Erie County is only the fifth county in New York to pass such legislation. Erie and Niagara Counties are the only upstate counties to do so.

The creation of the Silver Alert System has received support from several agencies. In the event a Silver Alert is sounded, the Sheriff's Office and local police departments will rapidly disseminate information regarding the missing person to all media outlets. The Alert will include this missing person's name, age, a physical description of the individual, what they might be wearing, and the last location where the person was seen.

For information about Alzheimer's disease or for assistance, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900.

Legislator Dixon speaks on the Legislature floor in support of the Silver Alert Law



25th Annual Beach Sweep Clean Up



Legislator Dixon helps clean the shores of Lake Erie and honors a longtime volunteer.

Legislator Dixon participated in the 25th annual Great Lakes Beach Sweep held Sept. 18, 2010 at Woodlawn State Park. Dozens of garbage bags were filled with trash as several volunteers 'stormed' the beach for the clean-up effort.

Dixon was honored to participate in a special ceremony held after the clean up to honor Sharen Trembath, who volunteered as the Lake Erie Coordinator for the past 25 years. Trembath recently stepped down as coordinator but vowed she would continue to dedicate her time to the cause.

In other 'beach news,' in September the Legislature approved a construction contract to allow the 1-mile Town of Evans walking path to be created. The path will connect **Erie County's Wendt and Bennett Beaches**. Completion is expected in 2011.

County to transfer ownership of land on Sturgeon Point Road to Town of Evans

Action taken by the Erie County Legislature on Oct. 14, 2010 put land located on Sturgeon Point Road one step closer to receiving much-needed recreational improvements. The Erie County Legislature approved the transfer of more than 52 acres of undeveloped land located on the shores of Lake Erie from the County to the Town of Evans. By obtaining the land the Town of Evans can now

implement a \$300,000 grant awarded by New York State Department of State to transform the property into a recreational area to complement nearby Sturgeon Point Marina.

"This is a win-win situation for the County and Town," said Legislator Dixon. "By allowing the transfer, the Town of Evans will be able to use the grant for design revisions and passive recreational

improvements to the land. This section of Sturgeon Point will remain open to all Erie County residents."

Dixon added, "The County will no longer be responsible for maintaining the land and the cost associated with upkeep. As part of the agreement, the Town of Evans must use the land for marina-related activities, public access and recreational purposes."

"The Town of Evans will be able to use the grant for design revisions and passive recreational improvements to the land."

Promoting Tourism

Legislator Dixon led Dottie Gallagher-Cohen, president of the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau, on a tour of her district in October.

The purpose of the tour was to promote tourism in the south-towns. Stops included, the Hamburg Fairgrounds, a drive through the Village of Hamburg, the Kazoo

Factory, Marienthal Inn, School House #8, Evangola State Park, MacBaxter's Bed and Breakfast, the County's Wendt and Bennett Beaches and Graycliff.

"There are so many wonderful places to visit south of Buffalo. I want to thank Dottie for helping these attractions promote themselves," Legislator Dixon said.



Legislator Dixon visits Graycliff during her tour.



**Contact Erie County
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Erie County's vision: Erie County will be a world-class community where People want to live, Businesses want to locate and Tourists want to visit.



I am proud to serve as County Legislator of the 12th District - representing the great towns of Boston, Brant, Eden, Evans, Hamburg, and North Collins, and the villages of Angola, Farnham, Hamburg and North Collins. My first year of office has been an amazing experience and I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability during the second half of my term. Please don't hesitate to contact me and tell me how I can serve you better.

Thank you for your support and interest!

Legislator Dixon raises funds for Hamburg Library



**Legislator Dixon presents a
check to Hamburg Library
Director Jack Edson.**

Legislator Dixon held a Hot Dog Roast Fundraiser in September 2011 to support the Hamburg Public Library. Hundreds of patrons attended and supported the library.

The Hot Dog Roast was held in conjunction with the Library's Pirate Party. Many attendees embraced the theme and came dressed in pirate gear. The afternoon also included stories, crafts and activities.

Legislator Dixon presented a check for \$311 to Library Director Jack Edson who reported that the funds would be used to purchase materials.

Legislator Dixon is dedicated to supporting all the branches in her district. She is planning additional fund-raisers next year and continues to work with the County Executive and the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System Library Director.

At the Oct. 14 session, Legislator Dixon voted to accept a \$1 million grant to complete the implementation of a Radio Frequency Identification System for the library system. This will create a **self-checkout system** to make the branches more efficient.

"The system reduces operating costs and is extremely efficient. This system is a great benefit for the staff and patrons," Legislator Dixon said.

The system will save \$750,000 annually and all branches will be equipped by the end of 2012.

District Outreach Events benefit the community

When the Republican Caucus decided to close its district offices, saving thousands of dollars a year on rent and utilities, it opened a new venue.

Legislator Dixon has held monthly District Outreach Meetings throughout her community, allowing her to meet with residents one on one, in their neighborhoods. Legislator Dixon visits every town and village in her district. She is always available to meet with residents by appointment, as well.

During Outreach Meetings Legislator Dixon is available to discuss County issues and answer questions about items before the Legislature.

For a list of District Outreach Meetings, please e-mail lynne.dixon@erie.gov or visit [www.erie.gov/legislature/district 12](http://www.erie.gov/legislature/district%2012). Legislator Dixon is also available to meet with residents by appointment. Call her office at (716) 649-2640 to schedule a meeting.

Legislator Dixon partnered with other agencies to hold several other Outreach Events, including a free boater safety class that was at capacity; a car seat safety check at the Highland Hose Fire Company; and a rabies clinic at Lakeshore Fire Hall.